

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2017
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2005
HARNESSING OF BIO-TECHNOLOGY
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes a National strategy to harness biotechnology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) the sectors likely to be benefited after the finalization of such strategy; and
- (d) the time by which the new National strategy will come into existence?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a)&(b) The Department of Biotechnology has formulated a Draft National Biotechnology Development Strategy. The main thrust of the proposed strategy is on promoting biotech innovation research and product development to facilitate economic growth. The purpose is to ensure that the country not only builds on the existing platform but expands the base to create global leadership in Biotechnology by unleashing its full potential.

(c) The draft strategy provides a framework within which specific actions can be taken for promoting biotechnology development. Cross cutting issues such as human resource development, promotion of innovation and industry, infrastructure development and manufacturing, biotech parks, regulatory mechanisms, public communication and participation are addressed. The Draft Strategy also deals with specific measures in sectoral areas such as agriculture, health care, environment, basic sciences, industry, etc.

(d) The Draft National Biotech Strategy was placed on the departmental web site on 31st March 2005 and was open for comments up to 16th May 2005. More than 250 comments have been received from students; scientists from academia, research institutes and industry; policy makers; NGO's and international organizations. Consultations have also been held with representatives of NGO's and industries.

The suggestions received are now being examined within the department and with relevant Expert groups. Inter ministerial discussion/consultation are also being organized. The revised document incorporating these suggestions will be examined by the Expert Committee and thereafter finalized. In these circumstances it is not possible to give any specific timeframe for operationalization of the new National Biotechnology Development Strategy.